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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/647,059	08/22/2003	Mark H. Crane	0717.2037-001	9713
21005	7590	02/06/2007	EXAMINER	
HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C. 530 VIRGINIA ROAD P.O. BOX 9133 CONCORD, MA 01742-9133			PIZIALI, JEFFREY J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2629	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		02/06/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/647,059	CRANE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jeff Piziali	2629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2006 and 21 November 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 06 February 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed (on 21 November 2006) in this application after final rejection (mailed 24 August 2006). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 24 October 2006 has been entered.

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on 6 February 2004. These drawings are acceptable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Ichikawa et al* (US 5,266,930 A).

Regarding claim 1, Ichikawa discloses a headgear system comprising: headgear [Fig. 1; 5] with an upper headgear portion for being worn on a user's head and a lower headgear portion

extending from the upper headgear portion for extending forwardly relative to a lower front portion of the user's head and below the user's eyes (see Fig. 1; Column 8, Lines 6-59); and a display assembly [Fig. 1; 11] mounted inside the headgear (see Fig. 1) to the lower headgear portion for being located below at least one of the user's eyes so as not to obstruct the user's vision (see Column 8, Line 60 - Column 9, Line 9), the display assembly [Fig. 1; 14] having a viewing display with direct viewing optics [Fig. 1; 6] facing the user and positioned inward from the lower headgear portion for displaying information, the information being visible when said at least one of the user's eyes looks downwardly at the viewing display (see Fig. 1; eyesight line), the display assembly being configured to be adjustable by the user while the headgear system is worn by the user for changing the orientation of the viewing display and the direct viewing optics (see Figs. 2 & 3; Column 9, Lines 10-58).

Regarding claim 2, Ichikawa discloses the headgear is a helmet [Fig. 1; 5], and the lower headgear portion is a face bar (see Fig. 1; Column 8, Lines 6-14).

Regarding claim 3, Ichikawa discloses the display assembly includes at least one rotatable joint [Fig. 2; 21] having frictional resistance so that the joint remains in a particular orientation until moved by the user (see Column 9, Lines 28-58).

Regarding claim 4, Ichikawa discloses the viewing display is sized for viewing by one of the user's eyes when said one of the user's eyes looks downwardly (see Fig. 1; Column 8, Lines 6-14).

Regarding claim 5, Ichikawa discloses the viewing display displays images which are focused to appear to be at optical infinity (see Fig. 1; Column 8, Lines 6-14).

Regarding claim 6, Ichikawa discloses the display assembly has a rotatable horizontal axis for allowing the viewing display to be tilted upwardly and downwardly, and a rotatable vertical axis for allowing the viewing display to rotate about the vertical axis (see Figs. 2 & 3; Column 9, Lines 10-22 -- wherein, it is further noted that if the user spun in place, the viewing display would also rotate about a vertical axis relative to the ground).

Regarding claim 7, Ichikawa discloses the display assembly comprises: a base [Fig. 2; 16] for mounting to the face bar of the helmet, the base having a circular recess that is connected to an entrance slot (see Fig. 4); a rotatable member [Fig. 4; 19] having at least a partial circular portion that has a snap fit into the circular recess of the base through the entrance slot, the rotatable member being rotatable within the circular recess about the vertical axis; and two side members [Fig. 2; 17] extending from the rotatable member, the display being rotatably mounted between the side members along the horizontal axis (see Column 9, Lines 10-58).

Regarding claim 8, Ichikawa discloses the display assembly [Figs. 32 & 34; 737] is mounted to the face bar of the helmet for being below a first eye [Figs. 32 & 34; E_R] of the user, the headgear system further comprising a second base [Figs. 32 & 34; 738] mounted to the face bar of the helmet for being below a second eye [Figs. 32 & 34; E_L] of the user to allow the user

to select the position of at least one display by snap fitting an associated rotatable member into the desired base (see Column 8, Lines 3-14 & 40-61; as well as Column 19, Lines 9-17).

Regarding claim 9, this claim is rejected by the reasoning applied in rejecting claims 1 and 6.

Regarding claim 10, this claim is rejected by the reasoning applied in rejecting claim 7.

Regarding claim 11, this claim is rejected by the reasoning applied in rejecting claim 1.

Regarding claim 12, this claim is rejected by the reasoning applied in rejecting claim 2.

Regarding claim 13, this claim is rejected by the reasoning applied in rejecting claim 3.

Regarding claim 14, this claim is rejected by the reasoning applied in rejecting claim 4.

Regarding claim 15, this claim is rejected by the reasoning applied in rejecting claim 5.

Regarding claim 16, this claim is rejected by the reasoning applied in rejecting claim 6.

Regarding claim 17, this claim is rejected by the reasoning applied in rejecting claim 7.

Regarding claim 18, this claim is rejected by the reasoning applied in rejecting claim 8.

Regarding claim 19, this claim is rejected by the reasoning applied in rejecting claims 1 and 6.

Regarding claim 20, this claim is rejected by the reasoning applied in rejecting claim 7.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicants' arguments filed 24 October 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicants contend the cited prior art of Ichikawa et al (US 5,266,930 A), "does not teach or suggest 'a display assembly mounted inside the headgear to the lower headgear portion', 'the display assembly having a viewing display with direct viewing optics facing the user and positioned inward from the lower headgear portion for displaying information, the information being visible when said at least one of the user's eye looks downwardly at the viewing display, the display assembly being configured to be adjustable by the user while the headgear is worn by the user for changing the orientation of the viewing display and the direct viewing optics', as recited in base Claim 1, as amended, and similarly in Claim 11, as amended, or 'a rotatable vertical axis for allowing the viewing display to be rotate about the vertical axis' as recited in Claim 6, as amended, and similarly in Claims 9, 16 and 19, as amended. Furthermore, Ichikawa does not teach or suggest 'a rotatable member having at least a partial circular portion that has a snap fit into the circular recess of the base through the entrance slot,

the rotatable member being rotatable within the circular recess about the vertical axis', as recited in Claims 7, 10, as amended, and similarly in Claims 17 and 20, as amended. As previously pointed out, the display unit 11 and disk 20 in Ichikawa are rotatable about two horizontal axes but no vertical axes. Finally, Ichikawa does not each or suggest 'a second base mounted xo the face bar of the helmet for being below a second eye of the user to allow the user to select the position of at least one viewing display by snap fitting an associated rotatable member into the desired base," (see Pages 9-10 of the 'Amendment After Final Rejection Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116' filed 24 October 2006) as instantly claimed. However, the examiner respectfully disagrees.

The applicants allege that Ichikawa's user does not view images by looking at the display unit [Fig. 1; 11], but instead, the user has to look at the wind shield [Fig. 1; 6], where the images are projected, and which forms the viewing display (see Page 8 of the 'Amendment After Final Rejection Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116' filed 24 October 2006). However, Ichikawa states, "a hologram plate is placed on the shield [Fig. 1; 6] of the helmet so that a display image from the liquid crystal element [Fig. 1; 12] may be projected upon the hologram plate so as to create a hologram image visually observable by a wearer of the helmet [Fig. 1; 5]" (see Column 9, Lines 4-9). As the hologram plate provides a visual representation of information for the user, one skilled in the art would appropriately consider it as constituting "a display." Furthermore, there is nothing during normal operation inhibiting Ichikawa's user from looking downwardly at the display assembly [Fig. 1; 11] itself, if he or she so desires.

Ichikawa also states, "The adjusting disk [Figs. 2-3; 20] can be manually moved forward or backward... or left or right so as to rock the display unit [Fig. 1; 11]" (see Column 9, Lines 28-

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30). Furthermore, it is noted that although the wind shield [Fig. 1; 6] may arguably remain stationary, the actual projected image (which qualifies as "a display") most certainly will change and be adjustable, depending upon left/right and forward/backward adjustments made to the display unit [Fig. 1; 11].

Additionally, Ichikawa discloses a rotatable member [Fig. 4; 19] having at least a partial circular portion that has a snap fit into the circular recess of the base through the entrance slot, the rotatable member being rotatable within the circular recess about the vertical axis (see Column 9, Lines 10-58).

And lastly, Ichikawa discloses a second base [Figs. 32 & 34; 738] mounted to the face bar of the helmet for being below a second eye [Figs. 32 & 34; E_L] of the user to allow the user to select the position of at least one display by snap fitting an associated rotatable member into the desired base (see Column 8, Lines 3-14 & 40-61; as well as Column 19, Lines 9-17).

By such reasoning, rejection of the claims is deemed proper, necessary, and thereby maintained at this time.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeff Piziali whose telephone number is (571) 272-7678. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (6:30AM - 3PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on (571) 272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Jeff Piziali
2 February 2007